Monks Risborough
Church of England Primary School
'A school family where everyone thrives in every way.'

Sex Education Policy

This policy was reviewed Summer 2025

The policy is to be reviewed Summer 2026

Signed……Chair of Governors

Date ……

School ethos

At Monks Risborough CE Primary School, we are committed to providing a holistic approach to education which aims to support the academic, cultural, personal and social development of all our pupils. From September 2020 statutory Relationships Education and Health Education will be part of the taught curriculum within Personal Social Health and Economic Education (PSHE). This is an essential part of a child's education and contributes to their personal development. Sex Education is not statutory at primary, but recommended by the DfE. We teach Sex Education as part of our Relationships Education within the planned PSHE curriculum.

Aims of the Sex Education policy

All primary schools offering Sex Education are required to: define any sex education they choose to teach other than that covered in the science curriculum; outline the subject content, how it will be taught and who is responsible for teaching it; and state the parents' / carers' right to withdraw from non-statutory sex education lessons and the protocols established by the school to facilitate this. Schools are also required to consult with parents with regards to the policy and to work with parents, offering support in talking to their children about sex education and how to link this to what is being taught in school. It is the statutory responsibility of the governing body to ensure the school has a compliant and up to date Sex Education Policy.

The aim of this policy is to:

- Provide information to staff, parents and carers, governors, pupils and other agencies regarding the organisation, content and approach to teaching of Sex Education
- Help parents and carers to understand what is covered in Sex Education and support them to work with their child to secure the very best outcomes for all pupils
- Demonstrate how the school meets legal requirements with regards to teaching Sex Education

Legal Requirements

To comply with The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, which are made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, and make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education. They also make Health Education compulsory in all schools except independent schools.

To comply with the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education statutory guidance from the DfE (June 2019).

To comply with the requirements to have an up-to-date Sex Education/RSE policy developed in consultation with pupils, parents and carers (Education Act 1996), and in line with the DfE statutory guidance on Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education (June 2019).

To have due regard to the Equality Act (2010) which requires schools to prevent discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different

groups. The protected characteristics that apply to school age children are disability, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity.

To fulfil statutory safeguarding duties and ensure any safeguarding issues arising from Relationships/ Sex Education teaching are identified and followed in accordance with the school safeguarding policy.

(For further information on the legal requirements please see links to the DFE information in Appendix 3)

Parents'/ carers' right to withdraw

At Monks Risborough CE Primary School, we teach Sex Education as part of our Relationships and PSHE curriculum. As Sex Education is not statutory at primary we wish to state the right of parents and carers to withdraw their child from designated Sex Education lessons. We encourage parents/ carers to make an appointment to come in and speak to the Headteacher about any concerns they may have. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form in Appendix 2.

Parents and carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from PSHE which includes statutory Relationships Education and Health Education (including the changing adolescent body/puberty). The science curriculum also includes content on human development, including reproduction, which there is no right to withdraw from. We highly recommend all students receive the full PSHE curriculum.

Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in sex education until the request for withdrawal has been removed. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education and that child will go to another class for the duration of the lesson.

Development of the policy

This policy was developed by the PSHE lead in consultation with school governors and parents.

This policy links to the PSHE policy, Relationships Education Policy, Child Protection Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Equalities policy and the School Behaviour policy.

We aim to work collaboratively with parents/ carers to ensure pupils receive Sex Education lessons that are relevant and age appropriate and sensitive to the needs of the community we serve. We welcome parents and carers to make an appointment to come in to discuss any aspect of this policy and the provision in school.

Definition of Sex Education

Sex Education is defined as teaching children how human reproduction occurs, including how a baby is conceived and born. This draws on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science. For the purposes of this policy, we specifically identify any non-statutory Sex Education that falls outside of Science and those related elements (the physical changes associated with puberty) within statutory Health Education.

Sex Education at Monks Risborough CE Primary School is taught through the PSHE curriculum as part Relationships Education. Sex education is taught in addition to the statutory science and health curriculum and provides factual and age appropriate knowledge about conception and birth.

The National Curriculum

Statutory Science Curriculum Content

Early Years Foundation Stage children learn about life cycles as well as watching chicks hatch. Through ongoing personal, social and emotional development, they develop the skills to form relationships and think about relationships with others.

In Key Stage 1 (years 1 – 2) children learn:

- To identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is to do with each sense
- To notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults
- To find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)
- To describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene

In Key Stage 2 (years 3 – 6) children learn:

- To identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat
- To identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement
- To describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans
- To identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions
- To describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals
- To describe the changes, as humans develop to old age
- To identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood
- To recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function
- To describe the way nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans
- To recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents

Statutory Health Education

As part of statutory Health Education, children are taught in an age appropriate way about puberty and the associated physical and emotional changes from Year 4 onwards. As part of the science curriculum, children learn in Year 2 that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults. In Year 5, they describe the changes as humans develop to old age and about how reproduction occurs in some plants and animals.

Alongside this, children in Year 5 are taught to recognise the signs and changes that may occur during the onset of puberty, in preparation for further lessons on this subject which also focus on emotional changes and menstruation in Year 5. These lessons form part of the statutory requirements for Health Education.

Non-Statutory Sex Education

The DfE guidance 2019 also recommends that all primary schools have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of pupils, and this should include how a baby is conceived and born. Although sex education is not compulsory in primary schools, we believe children should understand the facts about human reproduction before they leave primary school. We therefore provide some non-statutory sex education, covering how human reproduction and conception occurs. This is taught in Year 6. Children are taught:

- that for a baby to begin to grow, part comes from a mother and part comes from a father; that in most animals including humans the baby grows inside the mother
- that when a sperm and egg meet, this is called conception; that conception usually occurs as a result of sexual intercourse, and what sexual intercourse means
- how a baby develops in the womb and how babies are born

We believe that teaching this additional content to pupils will ensure that they are better prepared for transition to secondary school and also support their personal and social development as they grow into young adults. As is legally prescribed, parents have a right to withdraw their children from these additional non-statutory sex education lessons – please see the relevant section within this policy in regard to this process.

Our Curriculum

Our Intent

Why teach Sex Education?

The DfE states in the statutory Relationships, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance (page 23):

'It is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The department continues to recommend therefore that all primary schools have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. It should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge from the national curriculum for science – how a baby is conceived and born'.

High quality Sex Education will support pupils to:

- Be taught factual and correct information about this how a baby is conceived and born
- Explore in a safe and managed environment questions they may have about puberty and give them an age appropriate understanding of sexual development
- Understand that all intimate relationships should be consensual and based on love and respect
- Understand the law and be taught that intimate relationships are for consenting adults
- Understand the importance of marriage and committed relationships and learn about different cultural and religious approached to this
- Recognising and establish their own personal boundaries, and privacy relating to their own bodies and are taught the scientific vocabulary for all body parts
- Dispel myths and incorrect information about sex and how a baby is conceived and born
- Recognise unhealthy relationships, inappropriate behaviour and to report concerns or abuse, (including signposting to trusted online support services such as Childline)
- Ask a trusted adult rather than go online with regards to any concerns or questions they may have and avoid viewing any inappropriate material or entering into social media conversations

Our Implementation

Sex Education is delivered through the Relationships curriculum as part of PSHE education. We teach the following:

- that for a baby to begin to grow, part comes from a mother and part comes from a father; that in most animals including humans the baby grows inside the mother
- that when a sperm and egg meet, this is called conception; that conception usually occurs as a result of sexual intercourse, and what sexual intercourse means
- how a baby develops in the womb and how babies are born

Distancing techniques are used in PSHE education, which provide depersonalised examples which support children to explore what is being taught without sharing their own personal experiences in the lesson.

What do we use? Jigsaw PSHE Programme and resources from the school nursing service.

Who teaches this? This is taught by the year 6 class teacher. These lessons are delivered with a known Teaching Assistant to the children also present in order to support the children's learning.

When do we teach it? In year 6 in the final Summer Term as part of the 'Changing Me' Jigsaw unit in our PSHE curriculum.

Where can I view curriculum information? Please see appendix 1 which shows the overview of Changing Me Unit of lessons in Year 6.

SEND

Pupils with special educational needs will be given the opportunity to fully participate in RSE lessons, and a differentiated program will be provided where necessary, to ensure that all pupils gain a full understanding.

Managing Difficult Questions

All aspects of PSHE are underpinned by shared and understood ground rules with lessons being delivered in a safe and well managed environment. Pupils are encouraged to ask questions and raise issues in a respectful and appropriate manner. Some questions or issues raised may not be appropriately answered in whole class lessons and these will be followed up separately on an individual or group basis. A question box is available for pupils who do not feel confident to ask questions or wish to have a separate conversation with a member of staff. Given ease of access to the internet, children whose questions go unanswered may turn to inappropriate sources of information. We also respect that some questions are better addressed at home with parents/ carers and the school will share information with parents/carers on an individual basis should the need arise.

Whilst it is vital to have trust and openness we cannot offer total confidentiality to pupils. Any disclosures or areas of concern will be followed up in accordance with our safeguarding procedures.

Impact

High quality sex education will enable our pupils to:

- Have a factual and age appropriate understanding of how babies are made and born
- Understand that intimate and sexual relationships are a natural part of adult life
- Know who to talk to if they have further questions about sex and intimate relationships
- Be aware of and respect different types of relationships in accordance with the Equalities Act

- Know they will continue to learn about sex education in their secondary school
- Keep themselves safe online, recognising risks, harmful content, and online contact and be able to report any concerns at the earliest stage
- Know how to keep safe by recognising any inappropriate behaviour from others
- Report concerns or abuse and have the confidence, knowledge and vocabulary to do so

Confidentiality and safeguarding

Teachers conduct sex education lessons in a sensitive manner. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse or exploitation. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw these to the attention of the designated person responsible for child protection (DSL) as a matter of urgency. Disclosure of female genital mutilation must be reported to the police (either by the teacher to whom it is disclosed or by the DSL).

Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Body will approve the policy and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring PSHE including Sex Education is taught consistently across the school and for managing requests with regards to the parental right to withdraw from non-statutory Sex Education.

The PSHE lead is responsible for leading and managing the subject. Teachers are responsible for delivering PSHE.

Pupils are expected to fully engage with PSHE provision including sex education and treat others with respect.

Equalities and Diversity

Schools, like all public institutions, have specific responsibilities in relation to equality and protected characteristics. Planning and resources are reviewed to ensure they comply with equalities legislation and the school's equal opportunities policy. All RSE is taught without bias and in line with legal responsibilities such as those contained within the Equality Act (2010). Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have different opinions.

The personal beliefs and attitudes of staff delivering RSE will not influence the teaching of the subject in school. In our school we seek to recognise and embrace the diverse nature of our community. We aim to value and celebrate religious, ethnic and cultural diversity as part of

modern Britain. We will explore different cultural beliefs and values and encourage activities that challenge stereotypes and discrimination and present children with accurate information based on the law. We will use a range of teaching materials and resources that reflect the diversity of our community and encourage a sense of inclusiveness.

Working with parents and carers

We keep parents/ carers informed about when sex education will take place. There is information and website links for parents on our website. Parents /carers are invited in to view the sex education resources before the lessons with the children.

Monitoring, evaluation and training

Sex education will be monitored and evaluated by the PSHE lead, School Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and Governors in line with the monitoring cycle agreed by the school. The Sex Education policy will be reviewed annually.

To ensure staff are confident to deliver all aspects of the PSHE curriculum including sex education, access to online, in school, local and national training will be made available in accordance with the school's CPD programme for staff development.

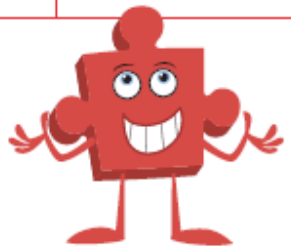
Appendix 1 – Year 6 Changing Me overview

Appendix 2 – Letter of withdrawal

To be completed by the parents

Changing Me Puzzle Map - Ages 10-11

Piece (lesson)	RSHE guidance reference	PSHE Learning Intentions	Social and Emotional Skills Learning Intentions
1.My Self Image	R15, R27, H1, H4, H6, H7, H9, H10	I am aware of my own self-image and how my body image fits into that	I know how to develop my own self esteem
2.Puberty	R30, R32, H9, H34, H35	I can explain how girls' and boys' bodies change during puberty and understand the importance of looking after yourself physically and emotionally	I can express how I feel about the changes that will happen to me during puberty
3.Babies: Conception to Birth Assessment Opportunity	R1, R4, R32, H9, H35	I can describe how a baby develops from conception through the nine months of pregnancy, and how it is born	I can recognise how I feel when I reflect on the development and birth of a baby
4.Boyfriends and Girlfriends	R4, R7, R8, R9, R13, R19, H9	I understand how being physically attracted to someone changes the nature of the relationship and what that might mean about having a girlfriend/boyfriend	I understand that respect for one another is essential in a boyfriend/girlfriend relationship, and that I should not feel pressured into doing something I don't want to
5.Real self and ideal self	R13, R15, R16, R19, R27, H1, H4, H6 H9, H10	I am aware of the importance of a positive self-esteem and what I can do to develop it	I can express how I feel about my self-image and know how to challenge negative 'body-talk'
6.The Year Ahead	H2, H3, H4, H6, H9, H10	I can identify what I am looking forward to and what worries me about the transition to secondary school /or moving to my next class.	I know know how to prepare myself emotionally for the changes next year.



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Name of child:	**Class:**
Name of parent:	**Date:**
Reasons for withdrawing from sex education within our relationship curriculum:	
Any other information you would like the school to consider:	
Signature of parents	

To be completed by the school
Agreed actions following discussion with parents:

Appendix 3 - DfE information for parents

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/relationships-education-primary

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812593/RSE_primary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf

Statutory Guidance (full guidance)

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/relationships-education-primary